YEAH, I'M FINE
WE'RE HEADED TO THE 7TH STATION NEXT
IT'S LATE, SO NEXT TIME I CALL WILL BE TOMORROW-
IF IT'S TOO MUCH, YOU CAN STOP ANY TIME, OK?
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD!!

FUJISAN IS UNUSUAL IN THAT THERE IS MOBILE PHONE RECEPTION EVERYWHERE ON THE TRAIL

20TH CLIMB: LOTS OF MOUNTAIN HUTS!
MOUNTAIN HUTS
IT'S SAID THAT HALF OF JAPAN'S MOUNTAIN HUTS ARE ON FUJISAN, AND IT CERTAINLY HAS QUITE A FEW. THE YOSHIDA ROUTE HAS 13 IN TOTAL. ON ORDINARY MOUNTAINS, YOU'D BE LUCKY TO FIND JUST ONE OR TWO.

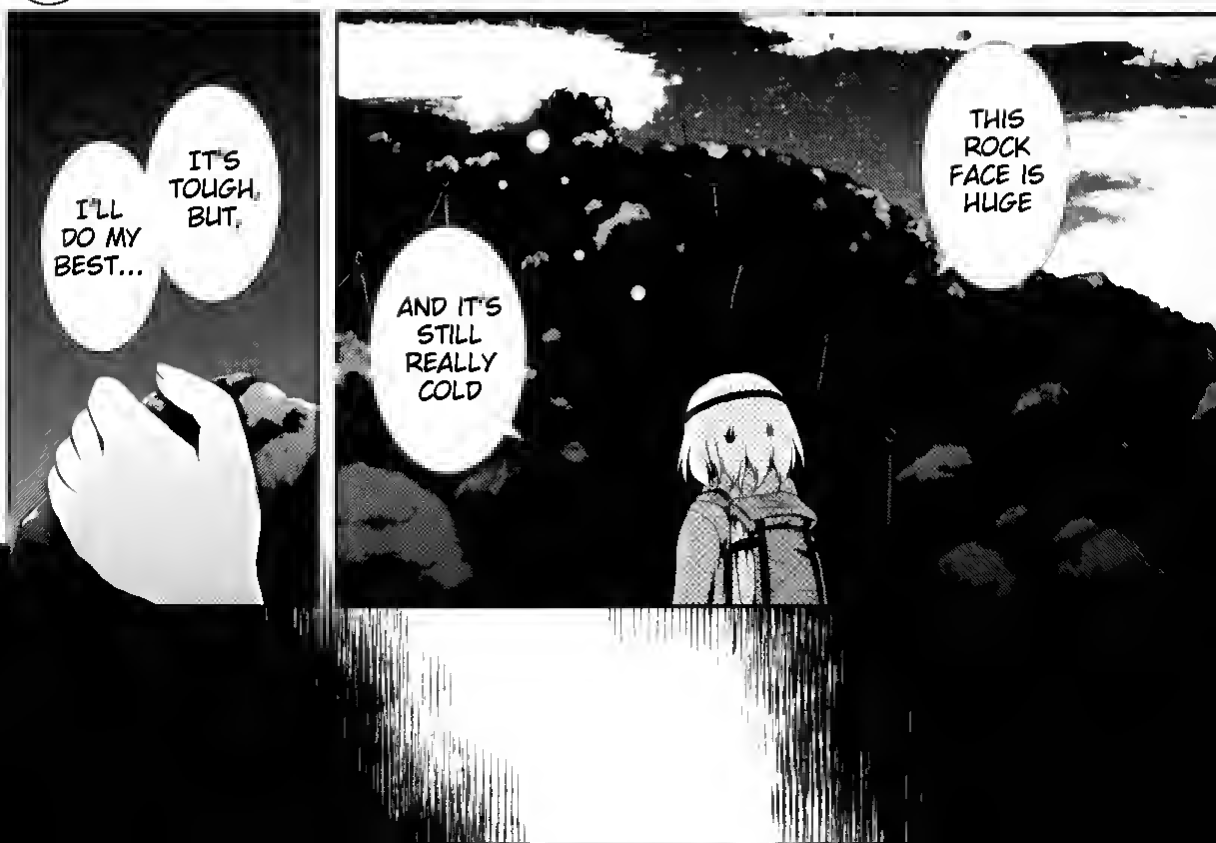
THE TRAIL IS HARD TO FOLLOW, HUH?
YEAH,
BUT MY EYES HAVE MOSTLY ADJUSTED NOW...
ME TOO, I'M ABLE TO SEE THE BOULDERS NOW WITHOUT A LIGHT...
THE LIGHT FROM THE MOON IS BRIGHTER THAN I EXPECTED...
THE MOON?
HEY,
AOI-
HMM?
??

A-
AMAZING...
THE MILKY WAY SEEMED LIKE A SMUDGE ACROSS THE SKY
NOTHING LIKE HOW IT APPEARED IN PHOTOS
I'M GLAD WE CAME...
AH-
FUJISAN'S STARRY SKIES
BECAUSE OF FUJISAN'S HIGH ELEVATION AND DISTANCE FROM THE CITY, THE STARRY SKIES THERE ARE PARTICULARLY BEAUTIFUL. THE 5TH STATION HAS BECOME A POPULAR PHOTO SPOT SINCE YOU CAN DRIVE RIGHT TO IT.

COMPLETELY BLACK
HUH?
CLICK
カシャッ
OH, I SHOULD TAKE A PHOTO!
IT'S ALL BLACK...
WHY?
PHONE CAMERAS WON'T WORK-
EARLIER, YOU COULDN'T SEE IT AT ALL, RIGHT?
OUR EYES ARE AMAZING THINGS...
LIGHT AT NIGHT
THE LIGHT IN THE MOUNTAINS AT NIGHT IS 1/100000TH OF THE LIGHT DURING THE DAY. HUMAN EYES ARE AMAZING TO BE ABLE TO SEE IN SUCH CONDITIONS.
I WONDER IF A LARGE CAMERA WOULD WORK...
LIKE AN SLR? I HAVE SEEN MORE OF THOSE LATELY...
SLR MENTAL IMAGE
50000+ YEN
THOSE ARE WAY TOO MUCH...
THEN LOOK TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.
AND BRING THAT MEMORY HOME WITH YOU.
I GUESS SO...

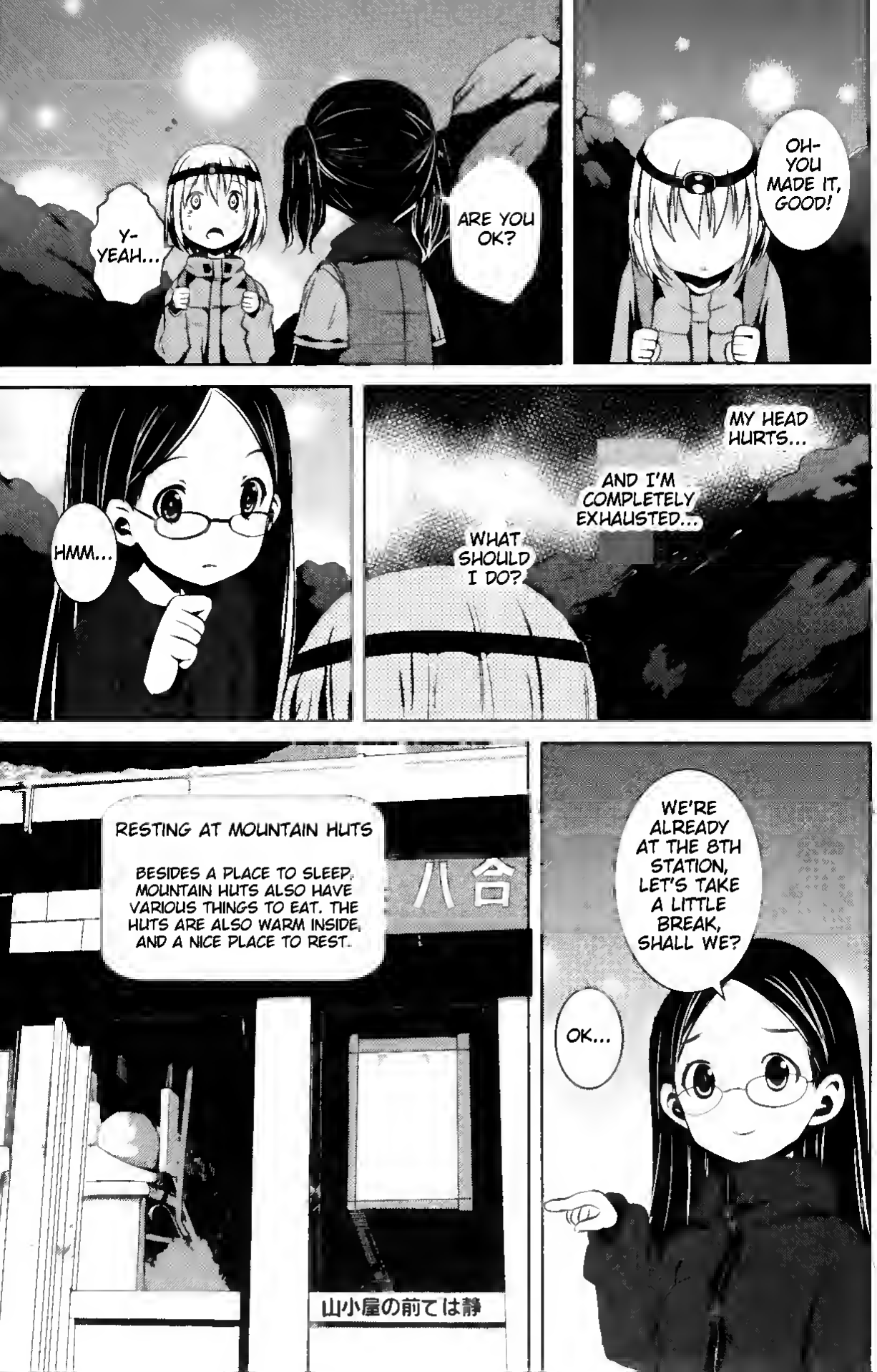
BRRR, IT'S COLD...
I GUESS WE STOPPED FOR TOO LONG...
YEAH, BUT

IT SEEMS LIKE THERE ARE HUTS EVERYWHERE NOW
TRUE. WE PASS ONE EVERY 10 MINUTES OR SO
WE'LL DEFINITELY BE SAFE-
FOG IS STILL COVERING EVERYTHING
AND I CAN'T SEE THE SCENERY AT ALL
WE SHOULD KEEP MOVING...
WOW!


THIS ROCK FACE IS HUGE
AND IT'S STILL REALLY COLD
IT'S TOUGH, BUT,
I'LL DO MY BEST...

HUH? IT'S GETTING HARD TO BREATHE
BUT
I'M OK...
EVEN LIKE THIS, I'LL BE
FINE...
HUFF
I'LL TAKE IT AT MY OWN PACE
HUFF
SLOWLY... SLOWLY...
THAT'S STRANGE...

2 KM TO THE SUMMIT (180 MINUTES)


ARE YOU OK?
Y-YEAH...
OH- YOU MADE IT, GOOD!
MY HEAD HURTS...
AND I'M COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HMM...
WE'RE ALREADY AT THE 8TH STATION, LET'S TAKE A LITTLE BREAK, SHALL WE?
OK...
RESTING AT MOUNTAIN HUTS
BESIDES A PLACE TO SLEEP, MOUNTAIN HUTS ALSO HAVE VARIOUS THINGS TO EAT. THE HUTS ARE ALSO WARM INSIDE, AND A NICE PLACE TO REST.
八合
山小屋の前ては静

HUH-
IT SAYS THIS HUT WAS VISITED BY PRINCE SHOUTOKU
THAT EXPLAINS THE HISTORIC ATMOSPHERE HERE...
REALLY!?
AND HEY- THIS KETTLE IS OVER 200 YEARS OLD-
THAT'S BACK IN THE EDO PERIOD!
THEN, PEOPLE WITH TOPKNOTS USED THIS!
AOI! ISN'T THAT AMAZING?
HUH?

K-
KAEDE-SAN, IS SHE...
YEAH... SHE HAS ALTITUDE SICKNESS, IF RESTING HERE DOESN'T HELP, WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL MORNING, THEN HEAD DOWN...
!
HINATA-CHAN
I'LL LOOK AFTER HER, SO YOU AND KOKONA-CHAN SHOULD GO AHEAD
BUT-
IN HER CONDITION SHE PROBABLY CAN'T GO ANY HIGHER
I'VE BEEN TO THE TOP BEFORE, SO YOU TWO SHOULD GO AHEAD IN AOI'S PLACE!
AOI, TAKE A LITTLE BREAK THEN CATCH UP WITH US, OK?

MY HEAD HURTS SO MUCH...
I CAN'T EVEN GIVE AN HONEST REPLY...

FOR NOW, I'VE TOLD HINATA-CHAN AND KOKONA-CHAN TO GO AHEAD-
OK...
IT'S ONLY 1 AM, THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME UNTIL SUNRISE, SO
TAKE YOUR TIME

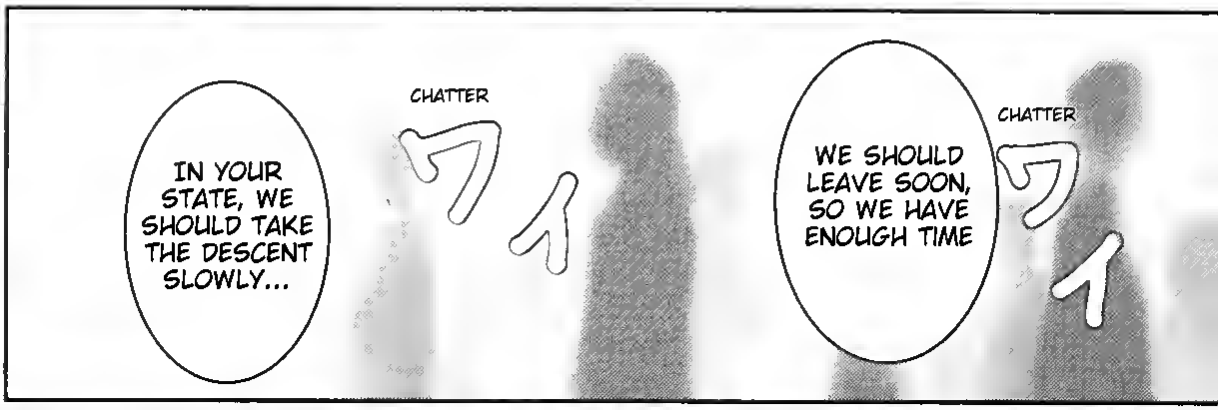
I SEE...
THEY'VE... ALREADY LEFT... _

WHAT SHOULD I DO...
WHAT SHOULD I DO...

NOTHING IS GOING RIGHT...

JUST A MOMENT AGO, THE STARRY SKY WAS SO BEAUTIFUL, AND I WAS HAVING SO MUCH FUN...
NOW EVERYTHING HAS TURNED AROUND
HOW DID IT TURN OUT THIS WAY?
MY HEAD HURTS, AND I'M SO TIRED
I GET THE FEELING THIS IS AS FAR AS I'LL MAKE IT
HOW DID IT END UP LIKE THIS?
OH...RIGHT...
MAYBE, YESTERDAY BECAUSE I DIDN'T SLEEP WELL...

KAEDE... SAN...
WHAT TIME... IS IT NOW?
HMM, IT'S ABOUT 2:30...


CHATTER
ワイ
WE SHOULD LEAVE SOON, SO WE HAVE ENOUGH TIME
CHATTER
ワイ
IN YOUR STATE, WE SHOULD TAKE THE DESCENT SLOWLY...

HUH?
スウッ

KAEDE-SAN...
K-
THERE'S STILL ENOUGH TIME...
I CAN KEEP GOING AFTER ALL...
I...
I...
AOI-CHAN?

I HAVE TO!
むっ
I'VE TRIED SO HARD FOR THIS!
AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CAN'T MAKE IT BACK DOWN!?
THE MOUNTAIN ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE! YOU CAN COME BACK AND CHALLENGE IT AS MANY TIMES AS YOU LIKE, BUT THIS IS OVER!

PLEASE DON'T RAISE YOUR VOICE IN THE MOUNTAIN HUTS

5 FUJISAN ACCESS & CLIMBING INFORMATION

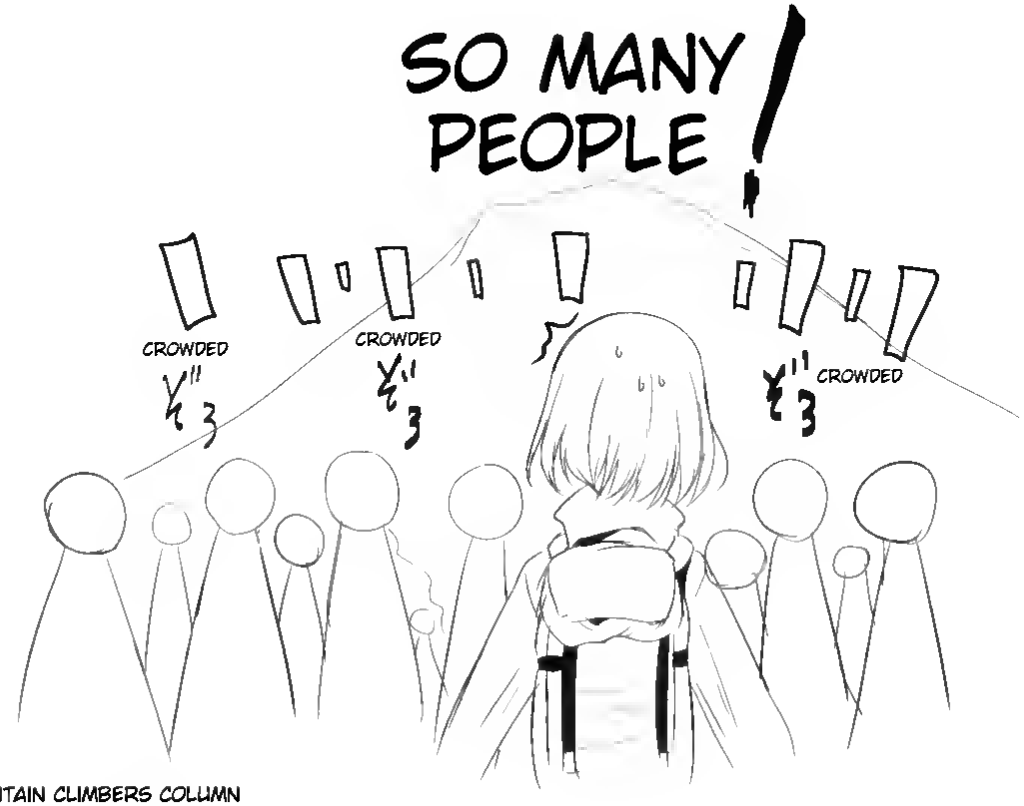
BECAUSE FUJISAN IS SO CROWDED DURING THE HIGH SEASON, PRIVATE CARS ARE REGULATED. EXTENDING FROM THE TRAILHEAD WELL DOWN THE ROAD, CARS PARK ON THE ROADSIDE, AND IT IS QUITE DIFFICULT TO FIND AN OPEN SPOT. WHEN IT'S BAD, IT FEELS LIKE THE WALK TO THE TRAILHEAD FROM THE ROAD IS ENDLESS, ALTHOUGH I WALKED IT ANYWAY (LAUGH).

FROM SHINJUKU OR TOKYO STATION, HOWEVER, TAKING A HIGHWAY BUS TO START YOUR CHALLENGE MAKES FOR A SMOOTH RIDE. WITH THIS IN MIND, A POPULAR WAY TO SEE THE SUNRISE IS TO GET TO FUJISAN AROUND NOON, CLIMB IN THE EVENING, SLEEP IN A MOUNTAIN HUT, AND WAKE UP EARLY TO FINISH THE CLIMB AND MAKE IT TO THE SUMMIT BEFORE THE SUNRISE. YOU DON'T NEED AS MUCH STAMINA, AND YOU CAN MINIMIZE THE SLEEP YOU MISS.

DURING YOUR CLIMB ON FUJISAN YOU'LL BE SURPRISED AT THE NUMBER OF HUTS THERE ARE. THAT'S BECAUSE (OR BECAUSE OF THAT) APPROXIMATELY 300,000 CLIMBERS VISIT FUJISAN EVERY YEAR. YOU WON'T SEE ANOTHER MOUNTAIN WITH NEARLY AS MANY PEOPLE ON IT.

IN FRONT OF EVERY MOUNTAIN HUT, THERE ARE BENCHES THAT YOU CAN TAKE A BREAK ON. MOUNTAIN HUTS HAVE LODGINGS, BUT YOU CAN GENERALLY ALSO BUY FOOD AT THEM. THERE ARE AUTOMATIC TICKET DISPENSERS FOR THE PAY TOILETS, WHICH MAKES THE ENDEAVOR FEEL QUITE CIVILIZED. IF YOU STAY OVERNIGHT, THE MOUNTAIN HUT STAFF WILL WAKE YOU UP BEFORE DAWN TO CONTINUE YOUR CLIMB.

NOW, FROM WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO CLIMB FUJISAN IN ONE GO, AND THEN GO HOME AND SLEEP. YOU ABSOLUTELY NEED A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF BOTH STAMINA AND WILLPOWER FOR THAT CHALLENGE. HOW WILL YOU CLIMB FUJISAN?



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Encouragement of Climb